

CLAIMS

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1. A multifunctional constructional modular element for machine-building purposes comprising:

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1.1.a profile element made of solid strong sheet material, like e.g. metal or plastic material, which profile element consists of an infinite profile comprising

1.1.1. a mainly straightly directed horizontal part that tapers off on both sides over an angle of approximately 90° to

1.1.2. a first downwardly directed vertical part and

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1.1.3. a second downwardly directed vertical part which is in a position parallel or not to the first vertical part;

at least one of the vertical profile parts 1.1.2, 1.1.3 longitudinally being provided at mutually regular distances with cut-away portions for the insertion of

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1.2. at least a hollow functional socket for interconnection of the vertical profile parts 1.1.2, 1.1.3 to a compact unit, which functional socket is interfused by the application of an appropriate method known per se, like e.g. welding, this functional socket also being provided with internal threading to receive an appropriate coupling element or module for use in a machine building construction, like e.g. an adapter socket, provided with a mating external threading;

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one and another in such a way that girders and vertical stands for the construction of a machine, like e.g. a packaging machine for the food industry, may be entirely constructed from one or more of such profile elements 1.1 with one or more functional sockets 1.2, resulting in a machine construction characterized in that it is very flexible, robust and allowing the profiles being interiorly good cleanable, thereby decreasing hygienic-risks.

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2. A multifunctional constructional modular element for machine-building purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that both the profile element as well as the hollow functional socket are made of stainless steel.
- 5 3. Multifunctional constructional modular element for machine-building purposes according to claim 1 or 3, characterized in that in a cross-section the profile element is C- or U-shaped and having a wall thickness of approximately 2 mm.
- 10 4. Multifunctional constructional modular element for machine-building purposes according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the hollow functional socket is of cylindrical shape.
- 15 5. Packaging machine comprising at least a machine frame or a vertical stand-up construction which is completely constructed out of one or more multifunctional constructional modular elements for machine-building according to one of the preceding claims.
- 20 6. Packaging machine according to claim 5, characterized in that the machine frame is of a uniform width, the differently chosen coupling elements, modules and chain guide profiles or such like being mounted on the frame by means of one or more adapter or functional sockets, one and another in such a way that every desirable foil width to be used in the packaging process will be applicable.